CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Hatred

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1600966.000

Medium: Computer Game

Distributor: Valve Corporation

Publisher: Destructive Creations

Country of origin: Poland

Language: English

Applicant: Chief Censor

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Graphic violence, offensive language and content that may disturb

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 13 February 2017

Date of direction to issue a label: 10 February 2017

Date of notice of decision: 10 February 2017

	Components	Running time
Game:	Hatred	
Total running time:		

Summary of reasons for decision:

Hatred is an isometric (top-down) third-person "shooter" computer game in which the player takes on the role of a murderous, disaffected loner who embarks on a shooting rampage among civilian populations. The Chief Censor called in this game due to concerns that it is currently available in New Zealand for download through the Steam network, and may contain objectionable or restricted content. The game is classified R18 because it depicts a high extent and degree of the infliction of serious physical harm and acts of significant cruelty. Children and younger teenagers especially would

be shocked and disturbed by this content, particularly as the violence and cruelty are directed by the player character at civilians in familiar urban, residential and industrial settings. For some impressionable players this kind of content may further trivialise extreme acts of violence by presenting them as entertaining and exciting. While the game may well disturb players of all ages are more able to place the game within its fictional and exaggerated context and are further capable of recognising the black humour within the game and conventions of the shooter environment, such as repeating character models and the inherent unrealism of withstanding copious amounts of injury and performing executions to regain health. The likelihood of injury to the public good is mitigated by restricting the game to adult players. The likelihood of injury to the public good has been balanced against the right to freedom of expression as set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. A restriction to adults is the lowest reasonable limitation that can be placed on that right in order to prevent likely injury to the public good.